

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

2016 Super VHF Conference

Bill Fisher W4GRW

As many of you know, there are some very dedicated VHF operators and contesters in the CDXA.

Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, heads up a perennial top 10 VHF Multi-operator contest team that operates from Boone, NC, every June and July. Pat Patterson, N4BX, Joe Barkley KI4TZ and several others work the world on two meter EME, moonbounce. Guy Titman, W4NUS, is a net control operator on the East Coast 70 CM net that has been meeting since 1979. Nyles McKeithan, KS4S, often activates the rare, mostly water, Grid Square FM13 from the Southport/Fort Fisher area. Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF/sk, & Paul, AD4IE, are award winning VHF rovers for many years.

Charlotte has been the host city for the Southeastern VHF Society's ([SVHFS](#)) annual regional VHF Conference 3 times, 2005, 2009 & 2012. CDXA Mem-

K4MD	Joe Simpkins	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

bers Thomas Wright, N4HN, Les Zavakil, W4FRA, Gary Greene, W2ZV, Guy Titman W4NUS, & Bill Fisher W4GRW have all been elected Officers and Board of Director members over the years.

After several years of discussions, 2016 was selected as the year where 3 East Coast Regional VHF Conferences, ([Southeastern VHF Society](#), [North East Weak Signal Group](#) and the [Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club](#)) joined resources to create the first ever [Super VHF Conference](#). The weekend of April 15-17 in the Washington, DC area was selected as a central location.

The Conference was filled with many excellent presentations, where even experienced VHF veterans picked up many new tips and ideas to help improve not only their stations, but also operating modes and skills too. The highlight of the presentations was Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, discussing "New Codes and Modes for VHF and Above Weak Signal" for his WSJT program.

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC



Meeting and talking with other VHFers, from the North-east was the highlight of the conference for many of us. We had been working these guys for years and finally had a chance to put a face with the callsign.



The conference Dinner Banquet is always a favorite time, and this year did not disappoint. We were honored to have retiring ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, as the Banquet speaker, and CDXA Member Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, gave the introduction.

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Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](http://www.cdxa.org), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.



The CDXA was well represented with Paul, AA4ZZ, Wayne, KU4V, Thomas, N4HN, Bill, N2COP, Les, W4FRA, Gary, W2ZV, Pete, WA2ODO, Jim, N2ZZ, & Bill, W4GRW. There's a picture of most of the CDXA attendees on the following page.

Like many Hamfests, the hotel parking lot was very interesting and drew many curious looks from hotel guests.





From left to right Les, W4FRA, Wayne, KU4V, Bill, W4GRW, Pete, WA2ODO, Gary, W2ZV, Thomas, N4HN and Paul, AA4ZZ , (Not pictured Jim, N2ZZ and Bill, N2COP)

There were 228 registered attendees at this first ever, record setting, East Coast Super VHF Conference, and there is talk about doing this every 4 or 5 years.

The striking thing about this type of conference is how different and fun it is from 'basic' HF, yet still Amateur radio. The antenna designs are different. Much of the required hardware is different - and smaller. Modes of propagation and the way of making contacts are different, and fascinating. For example, you do not bounce 40m signals off the moon, airplanes, and meteors! It is a different aspect of the hobby that you should check out if you have not already.

Stay tuned... Bill, W4GRW, Paul, AA4ZZ, Thomas, N4HN, and Gary, W2ZV, are involved in possibly bringing the Southeastern VHF Society Conference back to Charlotte in 2017. If you would like to help please let us know.

CDXA 35th Anniversary Party

Put July 24th on your calendar. Our 35th Anniversary Party will be at beautiful Jetton Park in Cornelius, on Lake Norman, in this AIR-CONDITIONED building, with the lake right behind it. More details to follow.



DX King News

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

Another month has gone by and K5EK still leads the pack in the “unlimited” category with K7BV, W3GQ, and W4HG still well within reach of first place. K4HC still leads the “limited” category and W3ZL leads the “formula” category. It's still not too late to get in the competition and win a \$100 gift card from Amazon.com. Full details are in the January Pileup.

Here are the scores that you have entered into the form on the website:

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	250	40	290
K7BV	Unlimited	237	40	277
W3GQ	Unlimited	225	39	264
W4HG	Unlimited	214	40	254
K8YC	Unlimited	174	34	208
W7DO	Unlimited	161	34	195
K4HC	Limited	150	36	186
K2SX	Unlimited	150	34	184
W3OA	Unlimited	137	33	170
W3ZL	Formula	136	28	164
NV4A	Unlimited	132	30	162
K4FS	Unlimited	120	29	149
KZ2I	Unlimited	117	32	149
K3IRV	Formula	105	27	132
N4GBK	Limited	101	27	128
K1MIJ	Unlimited	91	23	114
K4MLD	Formula	51	20	71
W4WNT	Formula	55	16	71
N2TU	Unlimited	14	12	26

New Member

CDXA is happy to welcome a new member this month: Robert Brockman, WX4G, 6074 Raymur St., North Port, FL 34286, 941-423-5397, bbrockmn@yahoo.com. Many of you have probably worked him as P40J in DX contests of years past. Be sure to check his QRZ page.

A Recap of CDXA's 2015 VHF Contest Success

Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ

2015 started on a devastating note for the Mountaintop VHF Contest Team. The passing of Ken Boyd, K4DXA, left a big hole in the team. Ken was a long time key member. The team often joked that if anything that went wrong on the mountain, Ken could fix it with what he could get at the Lowes or Radio Shack in Boone. There had been many a Friday night trip before a contest to one of these to get parts for Ken. Then in May we lost Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF. Ted had been an original member of the team and had been a long time mentor to several members. The Friday night before the start of the 2015 June contest, the team had a time of remembrance for Ken and Ted. Gary Dixon, K4MQG, joined via radio. With some big holes to fill the team went to work. There were lots of areas where team members had to learn new jobs.

The team overcame these setbacks to finish very strongly in 2015 with top 5 finishes in all 3 contests they entered. As AA4ZZ, they were 4th in the ARRL June VHF and 5th in the September ARRL VHF Contest in the highly competitive Limited Multioperator category. As W4MW, they were 2nd place Multioperator in the nation in the July CQ WW VHF Contest.

The 2015 operators included: AA4SC, AA4ZZ, K4IVF, K8YC, KI4TZ, KU4V, N4LED, N4UFP, W2ZV, W3GQ, W3OA, W4GRW, W4MW, W4WNT and WW4CP. The AA4ZZ and W4MW scores were submitted as CDXA club scores. Along with the other CDXA member-submitted scores, this resulted in the CDXA placing 10th in the Medium Club category in both the ARRL June and September VHF contests and as the 3rd Club in the United States in the CQ WW VHF.

Many CDXA members provided contacts that helped these scores. Please look for AA4ZZ and other CDXA participants in the ARRL June VHF contest June 11+12, 2016. Contacts are appreciated on 50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz SSB, CW and FM.

CQ Publishes Results of the 2015 CQWW Contests

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

CQ has published the final results of last year's CQWW Contests on the Web at <http://www.cqww.com/index.htm>. CDXA has placed fourteenth out of 65 entries in the contest. Our club score was 30,355,666 points for the total for the SSB and CW contests. That's down quite a bit from last year's 47,645,672, but most of the clubs above us in the standings were also lower than they were last year.

The two tables below show our members' scores for both the SSB and CW contests. The scores are in numerical order along with the operator class, and the number of countries, zones, and countries worked. Full details are at <http://www.cqww.com/> and click on the "results" tab.

This years CQWW SSB contest will begin on the evening of October 28 and the CW contest will begin on the evening of November 28 in our zone 5 time. Here are the results from the CQWW database:

CQWW 2015 SSB RESULTS

Call	Final Score	Q's, Zones, Countries	Area	Class
K5EK/4	2,012,413	1564, 149, 477	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
W3OA/4	1,997,640	1283, 126, 432	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
W3GQ/4	1,895,936	1279, 128, 401	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
N4PQX	1,720,469	1025, 134, 455	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
KZ2I/4	1,557,100	1231, 109, 351	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
K4FS	1,521,398	1119, 112, 381	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
KU4V	677,540	666, 103, 277	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
W7DO/4	587,708	523, 105, 302	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
N4UFP	435,500	515,85, 240	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
N2TU/4	205,296	275, 64, 209	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
K8YC/4	204,892	266, 79, 204	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
K4CEB	186,866	309, 65, 168	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
W3SA/4	175,189	323, 52, 151	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
NV4A	149,296	240, 61, 187	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
AE4VJ	107,250	207, 47, 143	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
W3ZL/4	103,641	200, 165, 128	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
N4GBK	94,570	187, 57, 136	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power
K4KAY	90,520	237, 39, 116	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
N4APR	50,256	141, 48, 96	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
W4WNT	32,890	115, 34, 81	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted
KD4RH	28,900	133, 22, 63	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, 40M

CQWW 2015 SSB RESULTS, Cont.

Call	Final Score	Q's, Zones, Countries	Area	Class
W4QNW	28,392	162, 18, 60	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, 80M
N4HWH	28,314	119, 40, 77	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power
W4FRA	26,208	103, 30, 66	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power
K2SD/4	6,786	47, 23, 35	US - Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted

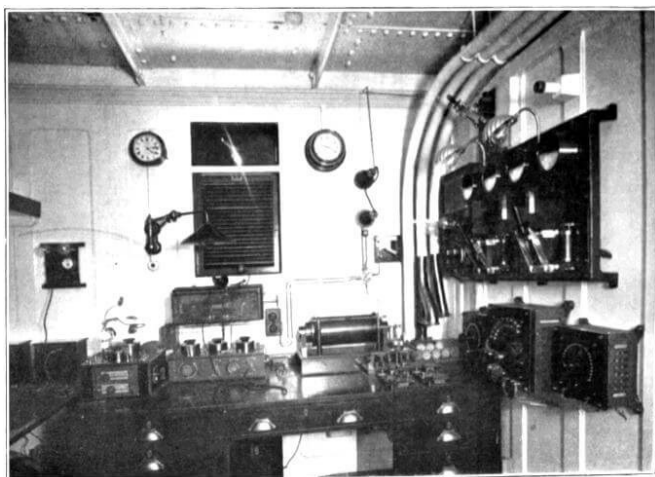
CQWW 2015 CW RESULTS

Call	Final Score	Q's, Zones, Countries	Area	Class
K2SX/4	2,707,900	1560, 148, 502	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
W3GQ/4	2,684,472	1753, 129,422	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
N4ZC	1,646,775	1060, 125,438	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
W3OA/4	1,500,152	1034, 131, 395	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
K5EK/4	1,196,690	734, 141, 464	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
W7DO/4	1,047,486	724, 131, 407	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
AA4V	1,023,187	769, 125,362	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
AA4R	957,775	811, 113, 342	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted
K2SD/4	237,412	381, 64, 180	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
W3ZL/4	209,050	344, 60, 166	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted
NV4A	166,144	269, 61, 175	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted
K4KAY	100,485	270, 49, 116	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power
N4UFP	71,136	184, 54, 117	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power
KU4V	56,840	149, 45, 95	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted
W4WNT	28,938	106, 35, 71	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted
AE4VJ	5,358	42, 12, 35	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, 80M
KZ2I/4	3,360	36, 14, 26	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power
W4CC	2,356	26, 13, 21	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted 80M

The Wayback Machine

One of the operators included in the pictures from operations at N4ZC's contest station was easily recognized. Here's the note I got, and a reprint of the picture.

Eric Sossoman told me "...Now this one I know. Dad / K4CEB/Larry. Thanks for the photo....."



Really going way back, I came across this picture of the Titanic's communications room in an article I was reading. The equipment was all from Marconi, and the radio operator was a Marconi employee.

The Back (Half) Page

- We featured VHF happenings this month, including our Page 1 article on the recent Super VHF Conference, by Bill, W4GRW; and a recap by Paul, AA4ZZ; of last year's accomplishments by CDXAers in VHF contesting, on Page 4. Especially considering the condition of HF propagation these days, it may be time for more of us to join the VHF party!
- There's HF news too, with the latest DX King scores on Page 4, and results from the 2015 CQWW Contests, CW and SSB, starting on Page 5.
- CDXA's 35th Anniversary Party is set for July 24th at Jetton Park in Cornelius. See the picture on Page 3, and the shots below, for a look at where we'll be. For now, mark you calendar. There will be more specific information coming shortly.



No Pileup next month, so 73 till July.
John, NV4A